

Who Is to Run Animal Control? Council Reviews City Structure

by James Giese

The Greenbelt City Council held a video conference work-session (see separate story on page 7) on March 19 with its consultant in California who had conducted an organizational study of the city government. Richard Brady, president of Matrix Consulting Group, reviewed for a second time his presentation of numerous recommendations for changes in the city's organization and operations this time with councilmembers asking more questions. Yet to be heard are comments and recommendations from City Manager Michael McLaughlin or departmental directors.

Earlier the council had reviewed transportation issues with area bus service representatives. (See separate story page 7.)

Mayor Emmett Jordan noted, in envy, the warmer weather Brady was experiencing (75 degrees) in California. Then he asked Brady to review his previous presentation (see story of January 9).

Brady first reiterated his view that the city provides extremely high levels of service, has a "clear and consistent customer service philosophy," has a budgetary process with "a high degree of transparency and accountability" and meets "a high proportion of 'best practice' service targets." He recommended, however that "the city needs to invest in its administrative infrastructure, especially relating to information technology."

Changes

Matrix made numerous detailed recommendations for change, noting which are of medium to high priority and which are targeted for the short term. Some recommendations can be accomplished without added costs, others come with an identified added cost price tag and some with undetermined costs. While the recommendations could lead to better decision-making by city management and council, thus leading to greater efficiency, no recommendations were made

with identified direct cost savings.

The contractual cost for the Matrix study was \$50,000. This included one meeting of Brady with council to review and discuss the consultant's recommendations which took place on December 16. The video conference was an extra item, McLaughlin said, of \$1,000.

Many of the recommendations dealt with improvements to information technology (IT), the most significant being that IT should be placed directly under the city manager or assistant manager instead of in the Finance Department and that one to two additional IT persons should be added to staff at a cost of \$50,000 each (plus fringe benefits). Of greater interest to councilmembers appeared to be a number of recommendations to shift city services from one department to another.

Greenbelt and other municipalities perform a wide variety of services of a dissimilar

See **STRUCTURE**, page 6

City Manager Presents Proposed Fiscal Year 2015 City Budget

by Thomas X. White

As expected, City Manager Michael McLaughlin provided the Greenbelt City Council with an overview of his proposed Fiscal Year 2015 City Budget at the March 24 regular meeting. While offering some bright spots regarding the city's outlook for the next fiscal year, he allowed that there is still not enough good news to indicate that the city is completely out of the woods.

He started his overview with the declaration that "this budget continues to deal with impacts from the 2008 recession." He said these impacts on the budget have caused revenues and expenditures to remain essentially flat for the past six years and that will continue to be the case for this year's FY-15 budget and will likely continue into Fiscal Year 2016.

Notwithstanding the recessionary impacts, especially reduced property values now down 20-25 percent for owner-residential properties, the manager noted that Greenbelt has managed the fiscal crisis with the leadership of council and staff efforts to identify over \$2.7 million in savings, reductions and cuts to previous budgets.

Even with that dire picture, the proposed FY-15 budget will total just under \$25.2 million, approximately \$578,000 higher

than for Fiscal Year 2014. The manager recommends no tax rate increase. Thus the city will hold its ground with higher assessments for Greenbelt rental apartments, lower tax abatements and higher street permit fees (mainly in the development taking place at Greenbelt Station, South Core).

While business/corporate property assessments were essentially flat and hotel/motel tax revenue was down, the city continues to benefit from income taxes, which have experienced steady growth over the past 10 years, he said.

Expenditures in the proposed FY-15 budget are about 1.4 percent higher than those last year (\$343,800). The manager believes the budget will generally fund existing services and allow implementation of some of the recommendations contained in last year's city Organizational Assessment. While the Organizational Assessment report recommends five new positions, none is funded in the proposed budget. There are, however, three vacancies in current staffing in the city to be filled.

The proposed budget calls for no increase in inspection fees or waste collection bills. But the budget will call for increases in passes for the Aquatic & Fitness Center (up 3 percent) and daily admission fees (up 25 cents).

Capital Projects

Also putting pressure on the proposed budget is a growing list of capital projects. These include the long-awaited renovation of the historic Greenbelt theater; phase one of a five-year commitment to repair the earthen dam at Greenbelt Lake; a permeable parking lot for the Springhill Lake Recreation Center; replacement of the HVAC equipment at the Community Center and the need to replace the Aquatic Center roof.

If council opts to consider possible usage of a portion of the old Greenbelt Middle School (a possible five classrooms) the city manager noted that \$50,000 could be budgeted utilizing funds from the Greenbelt West Infrastructure Fund.

Other FY-15 initiatives highlighted by McLaughlin included the effort to secure the location of the consolidated FBI Headquarters facility in Greenbelt West, continued development of a city economic development strategy, adding another volunteer Maryland Coordinator, implementing pedestrian/bicycle recommendations and seeking grant funding for "greening" of Cherrywood Drive. Others are to develop a tree master plan, a

See **BUDGET**, page 6

Women's History Month

March is Women's History Month. In observance, the News Review will run articles about Greenbelt women of significant accomplishments whose stories are not well known here.

The series is being coordinated by David Lange.

Catherine Plaisant Alters Human-Computer Interaction

by Marat Moore

Catherine Plaisant's research has international impact, but is as personal as how you move your finger across a screen to unlock your cell phone or view your pictures on a tablet. This French-born Greenbelter is a research leader in the field of Human-Computer Interaction (HCI).

For more than 27 years, she has worked at the HCI Laboratory at the University of Maryland with a pioneer in the field, Ben Shneiderman. They collaborate on research and work with multidisciplinary teams to design and evaluate new interface technologies.

In 1991 – for computers, the Neolithic era – she worked on development of the "touch-screen slider," a technique later patented by Apple. Now the process is intuitive for millions of users.

"We always ask: Who are the users? What are their goals?" she said. "And later in the development process our questions are: Is this design useful? Is it useable? And sometimes, is it fun? That might be a goal."

In 1998 Plaisant led the effort to develop the first version of "LifeLines," a novel visual interface to summarize all the data from a patient's medical record in a single screen. "It showed all the patient's treatments, medications and flagged anything abnormal or severe, etc. The physician could quickly zoom in on the important details."

"It was too early for its time,"



Catherine Plaisant

she said. It took 10 years for electronic records to become common and LifeLines now is considered a landmark achievement in research on information visualization strategies. Her work has helped physicians to better analyze patients' health records and

has inspired a generation of designers of medical

and other applications dealing with temporal histories.

The Paris of Prince George's?

Given Plaisant's professional stature, my surprise in meeting her was that she is so down-to-earth. She enjoys biking, hiking in the forest and together with her partner, hosts a popular pumpkin-carving party for their GHI neighbors for Halloween even though they just moved to Greenbelt two years ago.

It's part of a balanced life that Plaisant enjoys in Greenbelt.

"Greenbelt is fantastic!" she said. "As a French person, it feels like home. You can walk everywhere and ride your bike. Going to the Co-op makes shopping fun."

She looked around their attractive one-bedroom GHI unit.

"My Parisian friends come to visit and say, 'This isn't small!' And they comment on my big backyard. For anyone who has lived in Paris or New York, the size of this unit is completely normal," she said, laughing.

"I was surprised at how

See **PLAISANT**, page 6

What Goes On

Thursday, March 27

7:30 p.m., Greenbelt Homes Board Meeting, Hamilton Place

Monday, March 31

8 p.m., Council Budget Worksession, Social Services, Municipal Building. Live on Verizon 21, Comcast 71 and streaming at www.greenbeltnmd.gov/municipaltv

Tuesday, April 1

7 p.m., Public Safety Advisory Committee, Community Center

7 p.m., Arts Advisory Board, Community Center

8 p.m., Council Worksession, Organizational Study, Municipal Building. Live on Verizon 21, Comcast 71 and streaming at www.greenbeltnmd.gov/municipaltv

Wednesday, April 2

8 p.m., Council Budget Worksession, Misc. and Other Funds, Community Center

Double Reel and Meal At the New Deal

In addition to its usual Monday evening film (which was March 24th) the Reel and Meal has partnered with the Eleanor and Franklin D. Roosevelt Democratic Club to show Inequality for All on Sunday, March 30th. An optional, delicious vegan buffet served by Chef Karim will be available at 1:30 p.m. and the film begins at 2 p.m.

Inequality for All features Robert Reich – professor, best-selling author, and Clinton cabinet member – as he demonstrates how the widening income gap has a devastating impact on the American economy. Through his singular perspective, Reich explains how the massive consolidation of wealth by a precious few threatens the viability of the American workforce and the foundation of democracy itself. In this inconvenient truth for the economy, Reich uses humor and a wide array of facts to explain how the issue of economic inequality affects each and every one of us.

Following the film a discussion will be facilitated by Konrad Herling, Greenbelt City Council member and long-time member of the Eleanor and Franklin D. Roosevelt Democratic Club.

The Reel and Meal at the New Deal film series is a collaboration of three Greenbelt groups: Beaverdam Creek Watershed Watch Group, Green Vegan Networking and Prince George’s County Peace & Justice Coalition.

If you have questions please contact Susan Barnett, susnbarn@earthlink.net or 443-388-2961. The New Deal Café is located at 113 Centerway in Old Greenbelt, 301-474-5642. For more information go to <http://newdealcafe.com/events/reelAndMeal/>.

Toastmasters to Meet Wednesday, April 2

The next meeting of the Greenbelt Toastmasters Club will be on Wednesday, April 2 at 7:30 p.m. in the Social Hall of Greenbelt Community Church at Hillside and Crescent Roads. The Social Hall is at the rear of the church on the lower level of the main building.

Toastmasters offers professionals, students, stay-at-home parents and retirees a supportive environment to improve skills in communication and leadership. Members learn to lose the fear of public speaking, become better listeners and build skills for success.

Bach Lunch Concert Offered Downtown

The next concert in the Washington Bach Consort’s Noontime Cantata Series will be on Tuesday, April 1, 12:10 to 1 p.m. at the Church of the Epiphany, 1317 G Street, NW, near Metro Center. The performance will include the cantata “Nimm, was dein ist, und gehe hin” (BWV 144) and an organ piece, Prelude and Fugue in E-Flat Major (“St. Anne”) (BWV 552), with soloist Neil Weston.

This free series of 50-minute concerts is presented on the first Tuesday of the month in fall and spring. Consort Director J. Reilly Lewis introduces the music before presenting an organ work and one of Bach’s cantatas performed by both chorus and period instrument orchestra. For more information, visit bachconsort.org.

Tots: Nature and Music

On Sunday, March 30 from 11:30 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. and Monday, March 31 from 10:30 to 11:15 a.m. children ages 18 to 42 months can learn about the wildlife at the refuge through songs and rhyming. Parental participation is required.

Public programs at the Patuxent Research Refuge are free although advance registration is required by calling 301-497-5887.

For more information visit the website at www.patuxent.fws.gov. The Visitor Center is on Powder Mill Road between the Baltimore Washington Parkway and Rt. 197.

Riversdale Spring Concert Series

On Sunday, March 30 at 2:30 p.m. the Riversdale Chamber Music Society will hold a free spring concert at Riversdale House Museum (4811 Riverdale Road, Riverdale). Sunday’s performance by the Riversdale Woodwind Trio will include the sounds of Ibert, Mozart, Joplin and notable others.

The society celebrates the connection between University of Maryland and Riversdale House Museum where the university’s founder, Charles Benedict Calvert, was born in 1808. As the school’s newest classical chamber music organization, its mission is to provide a diverse chamber music experience by featuring students and faculty from the University of Maryland School of Music, as well as collaborations with musicians from military and local ensembles in the region.

For more information, call 301-864-0420 or visit the website at www.pgpark.com.

Montpelier Mansion Woodturners Exhibit

Through Monday, March 31 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., Montpelier Mansion will celebrate the Chesapeake Woodturners Exhibit. Members of the chapter promote woodturning both as a craft and an art form. They work to educate the public as well as participating in service projects throughout the community. Chesapeake Woodturners demonstrations will take place on weekends.

The free exhibit will be on display daily, except Wednesdays, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. during March. For more information contact staff at 301-377-7817.

Montpelier Mansion Historic Site is located at 9650 Muirkirk Road, Laurel.

Join Bird Walk At Lake Artemesia

The Prince George’s Audubon Society will host a guided bird walk at Lake Artemesia for migrating and resident songbirds, waterfowl and other birds on Thursday, April 3 at 6 p.m. The paved walk loops around the 38-acre lake and along Indian Creek.

Meet at the parking lot at Berwyn Road and Balew Avenue in Berwyn Heights. All are welcome and no reservations are required for this free bird walk. Binoculars are suggested.

For more information call David Mozurkewich at 301-509-2212 or email mozurk@bellatlantic.net.

Grin Belt



"And Frosty takes our selfie . . .
Eat your heart out Ellen!!!"

Arboretum Holds Native Plant Sale

On Saturday, March 29 from 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. the U.S. National Arboretum will host a native plant sale. Streamline spring plant shopping by coming to the Friends of National Arboretum Native Plant Sale on the Arboretum grounds. Several regional nurseries offer an extensive selection of locally grown native plants and growers will be on hand to provide gardening information. Admission is free.

Free Seminar at UMCP

The Clarice Smith Performing Arts Center will be the site of a program entitled, “TerpTalks: Arts, Community and Entrepreneurship,” on Saturday, March 29, 2 to 4 p.m. in the Band Room (Room 2450) of the Smith Center. As the first-ever collaboration between the Clarice Smith Performing Arts Center and the Robert H. Smith School of Business, TerpTalks brings together UMD students, professors, artists and entrepreneurs for a uniquely interactive collection of seminars.

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FRIDAY
*5:15, 7:30, 9:35

SATURDAY
*3, *5:15, 7:30, 9:35

SUNDAY
*3, *5:15, 7:30

MONDAY - THURSDAY
*5:15, 7:30

Classic Film Series at Noon

Saturday, April 5

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DEADLINES: Letters, Articles and ads—10 p.m. Tuesday. Materials for publication may be mailed to address above, deposited in our box in the Co-op grocery store (by 7 p.m. Tuesday) or brought to our office in the Community Center, 15 Crescent Road, during office hours. Mail subscriptions—\$45/year.

Greenbelt Community Center at 15 Crescent Rd.

OFFICE HOURS: Monday 2 - 4 p.m., Tuesday 2 - 4, 8 - 10 p.m.

Send us a letter to share with your neighbors about your observations, concerns, gripes and accolades regarding local issues.

Letters must contain your name, address and phone number.



Babe Ruth Baseball Signups

Players age13-15 call Mark @ 301 755-3315

Email: mark.markowich@t-mobile.com

Players age16-18 call Bob @ 301 345-1033

Email: bbsoneveldt@verizon.net

Community Events

At the Library

Wednesday, April 2, 10:30 a.m. Exploring Our Solar System! A special Storytime, for ages 2 to 5 years. Join NASA-Goddard scientists in exploring our solar system and universe through stories, joined by library staff who will lead science-themed finger plays and songs. Limit 20. Please pick up a free ticket for each participant at the Information Desk that morning. Regular Storytime resumes on Thursday, April 10.

There will be no Weekly Drop-in Storytime on Thursday, April 3, 2014 due to the PGC-MLS closure.

The regular weekly storytime will return during the following week on Thursday, April 10, 2014, 10:30 a.m., for ages 2-5, limit 20 people.

Encourage your child to make reading a positive experience by bringing them to the library’s storytime. The program contains a mixture of engaging activities and age-appropriate stories that support early literacy. Stop by the Information Desk to pick up free tickets.

Adult

Adult Book Discussion: Cheryl Strayed’s Wild: From Lost to Found on the Pacific Crest Trail Tuesday, April 15, 2013, 7 p.m. Join the library’s Adult Book Discussion on this New York Times Bestseller and Oprah’s Book Club 2.0 selection. At twenty-two, Cheryl Strayed thought she had lost everything. In the wake of her mother’s death, her family scattered and her own marriage was soon destroyed. Four years later, with nothing more to lose, she made the most impulsive decision of her life. With no experience or training, driven only by blind will, she decided to hike more than a thousand miles of the Pacific Crest Trail –and she would do it alone. If you have read this book, and want to discuss it, please feel free to participate. If you haven’t read this book yet, copies will be available at the branch’s Information Desk through April 14th.

Closed April 3

All PGCMLS branches will be closed on Thursday, April 3, 2014 for Staff Development Day. The Greenbelt Branch Library will reopen on Friday, April 4, 2014 at 10 a.m.

Arts Advisory Board Meets

The Greenbelt Arts Advisory Board will meet on Tuesday, April 1, at 7 p.m. at the Greenbelt Community Center, at 15 Crescent Road. For more information, contact Nicole DeWald, staff liaison, at 240-542-2057 or email ndewald@greenbeltmd.gov.

GHI Notes

Thursday March 27, 7 p.m. – Board of Directors Meeting (Open Session) – Board Room

Friday March 28, OFFICE CLOSED – Emergency Maintenance will be Available

Wednesday April 2, 6:30 p.m. – Investment Committee Meeting – Board Room

Wednesday April 2, 7:30 p.m. – Finance Committee Meeting – Board Room

Saturday April 5, 11 a.m. – Pre Purchase Orientation – Board Room

Sunday April 6, 2 p.m. – Nominations and Elections – Ice Cream Social – Board Room

Going Green At Home

Greenbelt Climate Action Network (GCAN) is introducing a new discussion circle topic. It will start on Monday, March 31, 7 to 8:30 p.m. and run for six sessions, weekly or bi-weekly. This circle, open to 8 to 12 participants, will take place in Franklin Park and is open to all. GCAN is seeking three additional people. There is no charge.

Topics will include:

- a) Using less energy: electricity, heating/cooling, hot water
 - b) Food: eating lower on the food chain (eat less meat)
 - c) Reducing Consumption: living more with less “stuff”
 - d) Reducing Your Garbage: reduce, reuse, recycle (and compost?)
 - e) Green Products in Your Home: light bulbs, shower heads, cleaning products
 - f) Why Bother? Can one individual really make a difference?
- The circle will be discussion-based and all participant “tips” will be shared at subsequent sessions.

For more information on where to meet or to sign up, contact Carolyn Lambright-Davis, 240-553-7318, lambrightdavis@yahoo.com or Lore Rosenthal, 301-345-2234, lore@simplicity-matters.org, or go to www.chears.org/gcan.

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First Greenbelt Mini Maker Faire, April 5

The first annual Greenbelt Mini Maker Faire is scheduled for Saturday, April 5 on the plaza at Roosevelt Center in Old Greenbelt. The Call for Makers, Performers and Crafters will be open now through April 1.

Any individuals, children or adults or groups or businesses interested in participating in this inaugural event are invited to complete a simple application at <http://makerfairegreenbelt.com> by the end of March. There is no cost to participate or attend. Members of the public can get tickets for door prizes at <http://makerfairegreenbelt.com/get-tickets/>.

Hosted by Club125, the Greenbelt Makerspace, the Greenbelt Mini Maker Faire is a family-friendly celebration featuring educational exhibits and hands-on activities in culinary arts, music and entertainment, microelectronics, and robotics, as well as general science, arts and crafts. Early submissions include demonstrations of vertical gardening, the science of felting, local works of art and an exciting exhibit of STEM education by a group from Northrop Grumman Undersea Systems.

Follow the Greenbelt Mini Maker Faire on Twitter @GB-MakerFaire, as well as on the website at <http://makerfairegreenbelt.com/> and at the MakerFaire-Greenbelt fan page on Facebook.

GreenBeLT Pride Holds Annual Meeting

GreenBeLT Pride, a community group for LGBTQ friends and allies, will be hosting its annual meeting on Sunday, April 6, from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. at the Greenbelt Community Center, room 202. Bring a dish to share for a potluck and enjoy getting together while we make plans for the upcoming year. All are welcome.

Bike Commuter Convoys Start

Beginning in April, Greenbelt cyclists are invited to join bike commuter convoys on the first Friday of each month from the New Deal Cafe at 7:15 a.m., with dropoffs at the Greenbelt Metro entrance, Lake Artemesia (College Park Metro and UMD area), East Hyattsville (Arts District/Courthouse), Brookland/CUA and downtown D.C. Pace will be moderate and an experienced D.C. commuter will be available to help with directions and questions. More information is available at <http://www.proteusbicycles.com/newsletter/commuter-convoys/>.

More
Community Events
are located
throughout the paper.

Greenbelt Arts Center

CONTINUING THIS WEEK

The Creation of the World and Other Business

by Arthur Miller

presented by

Off the Quill

through special arrangement with Dramatists, Inc.

Guest Production by Off The Quill

Through special arrangement with Dramatics, Inc.

Fri & Sat Mar 28, 29 &

April 4, 5 at 8PM

Sun Matinees - Mar 30 at 2PM

COMING

Alight dance theater - April 11 - 13

Celtic Concert - April 26 - Homespun Ceilidh Band

NOON

For information & reservations, call 301-441-8770 or email: info@greenbeltartscenter.org or

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by Greenbelt Resident Itsy Kliman

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R = ID Required

(!) = No passes, (!!) = No passes weekend

WEEK OF MAR 28

FRIDAY & SATURDAY

Need for Speed, PG-13

4:30, 9:40

Single Moms Club, PG-13

11:10, 1:55, 7:10

God is Not Dead, PG (!)

11:05, 1:50, 4:35, 7:15, 9:55

Cesar Chavez, PG-13 (!)

11:20, 2, 7:25, 10

Cesar Chavez, with subtitles, PG-13 (!)

4:45

Sabotage, R (!)

11:10, 1:40, 4:20, 7, 9:40

Divergent, PG-13 (!!)

11:55, 3:45, 7, 10

Noah, PG-13 (!)

11:45, 3:20, 6:45, 9:50

Mr. Peabody and Sherman, PG

11:35, 2:10, 4:40, 7, 9:20

Muppets, PG (!)

11:25, 1:55, 4:25, 6:55, 9:25

SUNDAY & MONDAY

Need for Speed, PG-13

4:30

Single Moms Club, PG-13

11:10, 1:55, 7:10

God is Not Dead, PG (!)

11:05, 1:50, 4:35, 7:15

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Mr. Peabody and Sherman, PG

11:35, 2:10, 4:40, 7, 9:20

Muppets, PG (!)

11:25, 1:55, 4:25, 6:55, 9:25

TUESDAY

Need for Speed, PG-13

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Mr. Peabody and Sherman, PG

11:35, 2:10, 4:40, 7

Muppets, PG (!)

11:25, 1:55, 4:25, 6:55

THURSDAY

Need for Speed, PG-13

4:30

Single Moms Club, PG-13

11:10, 1:55

God is Not Dead, PG (!)

11:05, 1:50, 4:35, 7:15

Cesar Chavez, PG-13 (!)

11:20, 2, 7:25

Cesar Chavez, with subtitles, PG-13 (!)

4:45

Sabotage, R (!)

11:10, 1:40, 4:20, 7

Divergent, PG-13 (!!)

11:55, 3:45, 7

Captain America (preshow), in 3D, PG-13

8

Captain America (preshow), in 2D, PG-13

8:30

Noah, PG-13 (!)

11:45, 3:20, 6:45

Mr. Peabody and Sherman, PG

11:35, 2:10, 4:40

Muppets, PG (!)

11:25, 1:55, 4:25, 6:55

Original Passover Play At Mishkan Torah

On Sunday April 6, at 5 p.m., Mishkan Torah Synagogue will welcome the Passover Season by presenting a gala extravaganza consisting of not one, not two, not three, but four major events. The headliner will be the premiere of a new play by Mishkan Torah and Greenbelt playwright Itsy Kliman entitled “Why Is This Year Different?” Kliman is a highly experienced and oft-produced writer who has been a resident of Greenbelt since 1970. The play is guaranteed to cause both laughter and lumps in the throat.

Prior to the play, Mishkan Torah’s multi-talented education director Bret Goldstein will regale the house with Passover songs and narrative. The evening will also feature a delicious dinner catered by the Sisterhood. Finally, the evening will also include the annual Passover wine tasting featuring our resident Passover oenologist Mishkan Torah President Dan Lowery.

“Why Is This Year Different?” is a heart-warming, insightful original play about the misadventures of a contemporary family when the grown children are preparing to celebrate the Passover seder or festive holiday dinner. The play captures the mood, spirit, and theme of the Passover season in a modern context and provokes both laughter and more serious thought.

Itsy’s son, Todd Kliman, is directing the production. The play revives a Mishkan Torah tradition over thirty years old by bringing back the Stage 18 Players. The audience will be able to enjoy the play in an intimate dinner theater setting, along with Goldstein’s pre-play performance. The cast features both veteran and several new Mishkan Torah performers.

Take a break from your Passover preparations and start celebrating early by enjoying the entertainment. There is a fee. You may purchase tickets at the Synagogue at 10 Ridge Road, or on line at www.Mishkantorah.org.

Mizeur Phone Bank Sat. Callers Sought

Democrat Heather Mizeur is campaigning, along with running mate Delman Coates, a Prince George’s County minister, for governor and lieutenant governor. A group of supporters is making phone bank calls every Saturday for the team and is seeking help from others to call supporting their candidacy. For details call Dan Banker at 301-233-5814 or email 1danbanker@gmail.com.



Snowdrops with snowflakes were seen throughout Greenbelt on Tuesday.

– photo by Helen Sydavar

Mishkan Torah Clean Up of Long Branch

Mishkan Torah’s Social Action Committee is proud to present its first-ever “Reverse Tashlich” on Sunday, April 6 from 9 a.m. to noon. Traditionally performed on Rosh Hashanah (Jewish New Year), “Tashlich” refers to the Jewish custom of throwing crumbs into a body of water to symbolically rid oneself of bad habits.

In a modern twist, Mishkan Torah is sponsoring a “Reverse Tashlich,” to reverse the effects of bad habits by helping to clean up a local stream. The stream is the Long Branch, also known as the Goddard Branch, of Beaverdam Creek. All are welcome to this event, which is being organized with the Beaverdam Creek Watershed Watch Group. The event coincides with the Anacostia Watershed Society’s 2014 Earth Day Cleanup (anacostiaws.org) and the Greater Washington Jewish Community’s Good Deeds Day 2014 (shalomdc.org). The meeting place will be between the end of Northway and the City of Greenbelt’s mulch piles.

To participate, just show up on Sunday, April 6 at 9 a.m. with boots or sturdy shoes, work gloves, a water bottle, and long pants which can get wet. The event is free and open to the entire community.

For details email socialaction@mishkantorah.org. On April 6, call 301-919-6420. To learn more about Beaverdam Creek visit www.beaverdamcreek.org.



Condolences to the family and friends of June Fineran, who died March 19, 2014, at the age of 89. She was the mother of Peggy Shaffer of Lakewood and had resided for eight years at Green Ridge House. A funeral Mass was held at St. Hugh’s church on March 24.

Congratulations to Eva Salmeron, a senior at Eleanor Roosevelt High School, who participated in the Latino Student Fund’s (LSF) LISTO College preparation program and is a form LSF tutor. She has been accepted to the University of Maryland and has applied to the honors program there. Eva is a strong advocate for immigration reform and the Dream Act and was part of the immigration reform march on D.C. in August 2013. Eva is also a coordinator for the Project Hype (Hispanic Youth with Power and Education) college preparatory program at the University of Maryland. She will serve as a high school ambassador at LSF’s Gala on March 13.

Send us your reports of new babies, awards, honors, etc. to share with our readers. We’d especially like to hear more from neighbors in Greenbelt East and Greenbelt West (Franklin Park). To send information for “Our Neighbors,” email us at news-review@verizon.net or leave a message at 301-474-6892.

– Kathleen McFarland

Keeping You Thriving In Your Community

Explorations Unlimited welcomes Mark Asch on Friday, April 4. This presentation is rescheduled from February. Asch, community liaison from Right At Home, will be leading a panel discussion of services and resources available keep one safe and healthy. The panel will discuss such things as what it takes to thrive, services available in the community and financial resources that may be available.

Right at Home is a licensed residential service agency that brings services to your home or to the home of a loved one. This discussion will include services offered by Right at Home as well as services offered through other organizations.

Explorations Unlimited is held every Friday from 1 to 3 p.m. in Room 114 of the Greenbelt Community Center. Everyone is welcome to attend and questions are always encouraged. Call 301-397-2208 for more information.

National Poetry Month Celebration

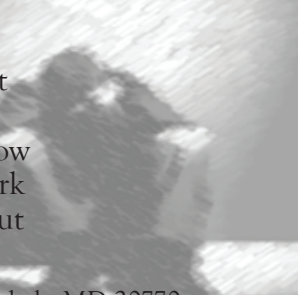
On Sunday, April 6, from 2 to 4 p.m., the New Deal Cafe in Roosevelt Center will host a reception in celebration of National Poetry Month. Many of the poets whose works have been on display at the Poetry Moment box in front of the Cafe in the past year will read their poems. There will also be an open microphone session for others to read their poems or poems that inspire them, and Matt Arbach will provide acoustic guitar music as well. For more information see www.newdealcafe.com. This event is sponsored by the Friends of New Deal Cafe Arts (FONDCA).



Mowatt Memorial United Methodist Church
40 Ridge Road, Greenbelt
Open hearts, Open minds, Open doors
www.greenbeltumc.org 301-474-9410
Rev. Fay Lundin, Pastor
Worship Service 10 a.m.



Depression?
Please join us on **Sunday, March 30th, at 6:00pm** at Greenbelt Baptist Church as Matthew Christ shares about how God sustained him through dark times and what he learned about God through this experience.





101 Greenhill Road Greenbelt, MD 20770
(301) 474-4212 www.greenbeltbaptist.org

Greenbelt Community Church
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

1 Hillside (at Crescent Road)
Phone: 301-474-6171 mornings
www.greenbeltcommunitychurch.org
Sunday Worship 10:15 a.m.
Clara Young, Interim Pastor



BERWYN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Rev. Mary Pullen - Pastor
301-474-7573
6301 Greenbelt Road
Berwyn Heights, MD 20740


Worship : Sun 11:00 am - 12:00 pm (Child Care Available)
Office Hours : Mon, Thu, Fri 9:00 am - 1:00 pm
Tue, Wed 12:00 pm - 4:00 pm
"A hospitable, multicultural community of faith"

Paint Branch Unitarian Universalist Church
3215 Powder Mill Road, Adelphi
Phone: 301-937-3666 www.pbuuc.org


Welcomes you to our open, nurturing community


March 30, 10 a.m.
On Creation and Creationism
Rev. Diane Teichert and Jonathan Mawdsley, Worship Associate, and the Choir


Today we begin a new “arc” in our worship year, focusing on the Earth, and will start with our own Judeo-Christian tradition and its - not one but two - creation stories. Newcomers are invited for informal conversation with the Minister in her office from 11:30 to 12:30.


Catholic Community of Greenbelt

SUNDAY MASS, 10:00 AM
MUNICIPAL BUILDING
SERVE BREAKFAST AT S.O.M.E.
Sunday, March 30
Meet at St. Hugh's School
Parking Lot, 6:00 AM
All are welcome.


Man’s glory lieth in his knowledge, his upright conduct, his praiseworthy character, his wisdom, and not in his nationality or rank. (Baha’u’llah)

Greenbelt Bahá’í Community
1-800-22-UNITE 301-345-2918
Greenbelt.Bahai.Info@gmail.com www.bahai.us

ST. HUGH OF GRENOBLE CATHOLIC CHURCH
135 Crescent Road, Greenbelt, MD 20770
301-474-4322


Mass Schedule:
Sunday 8:00, 9:30, 11:00 a.m.
Saturday 9:00 a.m., 5:00 p.m.
Daily Mass: 7:15 a.m.
Sacrament of Penance: Saturday 3:30-4:30 p.m.
Pastor: Rev. Walter J. Tappe


Mishkan Torah Congregation
10 Ridge Road, Greenbelt, MD 20770
Rabbi Jonathan Cohen Cantor Phil Greenfield

Friday evening services 8:00 PM except first Friday of the month, when children’s service begins at 7:30 PM
Saturday morning services - 9:30 AM
Children’s Education, Adult Education, Social Action, etc.
For further information call 301 474-4223 www.mishkantorah.org
Conservative and Reconstructionist

GHI Ice Cream Social For Candidates

Do you want to know more about what is involved in being on the Greenbelt Homes, Inc. (GHI) Board of Directors or GHI Audit or Nominations and Elections (N&E) Committees? Even if you're just beginning to consider running, please come to an Ice Cream Social on April 6 to find out the duties of each position, meet the current N&E Committee, get a candidate packet, and talk with some current Board and Audit Committee members.

The Social will be held in the GHI offices on Sunday, April 6, from 2 to 4 p.m. There will be ice cream and all the fixings, and casual conversation.

New members of the Board of Directors, Audit Committee, and Nominations and Elections Committee will be elected by the membership at the annual membership meeting on May 15.

For more information please go to the GHI website at www.ghi.coop and click on "2014 Candidate Package" on the home page.

The members of the N&E Committee are happy to talk with you about how to run for office or about members that you recommend as possible candidates. Please contact any of us: Henry Haslinger (chair) at hdhaslinger@comcast.net; Carol Griffith at carolagrif@msn.com; Mara Hemminger at bigsky_3@hotmail.com; Terry Henderson at hendersonx4@earthlink.net; or Kandis Wyatt at kandis.wyatt@gmail.com.

Mark your calendars now for the annual meeting on May 15! It's a great time to meet new neighbors, reconnect with ones you haven't seen lately, and find out about everything that's going on in our community.

New Deal Upcoming Events

Friday, March 28 begins with John Guernsey on piano from 6:30 to 8 p.m., followed by The Hall Brothers Band from 8 to 11 p.m. A mix of Rock, Country and Swing, this WAMMIE award winning band features Chick and Chris Hall.

Saturday, March 29 brings Bruce Kitt on classical guitar from 4 to 6 p.m. and John Guernsey on Jazz and Blues piano from 6:30 to 8 p.m. Built 4 Comfort is the featured band from 8 to 11 p.m. With its soulful vocals, tasty guitar licks and a deep foundation in the blues, this band is a crowd favorite mixing in R&B and classic rock.

Join the weekly Deaf Brunch on Sunday, March 30, from 10:30 a.m. to 12 noon. Reel and Meal at The New Deal Cafe: Inequality for All demonstrates how the widening income gap has a devastating impact on the American economy. An optional vegan buffet (\$13) will be served at 1:30 p.m. This event runs from 1:30 to 5 p.m. In the evening, please join us for an Art Reception from 7 to 9 p.m. Meet the artist Jenny Chau and explore the new exhibit.

Drop Us a Line!
Electronically, that is.
Note our new address:

newsreview@verizon.net

Greenbelt FCU Annual Meeting

Greenbelt Federal Credit Union will hold its Annual Membership Meeting on Tuesday, April 1, at 7 p.m. in the Multipurpose Room of the Greenbelt Community Center. There will be door prizes and refreshments will be served.

Shredding Day will be announced at the meeting.

Early American, Elegant, Art Deco & Depression-Era China, Glassware & Pottery

SHOW & SALE
Sat. April 26, 10am-5pm
Sun. April 27, 10am-3pm
Duval High School
Greenbelt/Good Luck Roads
Lanham, MD; ADM: \$4.00
(301)565-2361; (410)263-4192
Email: ybrian@verizon.net
Del-Mar-Va DG Club

Utopia Film Festival Presents

Sun., March 30 & Wed., April 2

8:00 PM "Oxygen For the Ears"

on Greenbelt Access Television, Inc.
Channels Comcast 77 & Verizon Fios 19



City Information

MEETINGS FOR THE WEEK OF March 31-April 4

Monday, March 31 at 8pm, **BUDGET WORK SESSION-Social Services** at Municipal Building, 25 Crescent Road. Live on Verizon 21, Comcast 71 and Streaming at www.greenbeltmd.gov/municipaltv

Tuesday, April 1 at 7pm, **PUBLIC SAFETY ADVISORY COMMITTEE** at the Community Center, 15 Crescent Road.

Tuesday, April 1 at 7pm, **ARTS ADVISORY BOARD**, at the Greenbelt Community Center, 15 Crescent Road. Info: ndewald@greenbeltmd.gov or 240-542-2057.

Tuesday, April 1 at 8pm, **CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION re: Organizational Study** at the Municipal Building, 25 Crescent Road. Live on Verizon 21, Comcast 71 and Streaming at www.greenbeltmd.gov/municipaltv

Wednesday, April 2 at 8pm, **BUDGET WORK SESSION-Misc. and Other Funds** at Community Center, 15 Crescent Road.

This schedule is subject to change. For confirmation that a meeting is being held call 301-474-8000.

THE DEADLINE TO GET COVERED UNDER THE AFFORDABLE CARE ACT IS MARCH 31, 2014

The following are upcoming Saturday events that you can get assistance in signing up

March 29th from 10:00 am - 4:00 pm
Prince George's County Department of Social Services, 425 Brightseat Road Landover, MD 20785

March 29th @ 10:00 am - 4:00 pm
4235 28th Avenue Temple Hills, MD 20748

In addition, there are numerous sites where you may get assistance during the week. Please visit <http://www.princegeorgescountymd.gov/sites/Health/Resources/Pages/Affordable-Health-Insurance.aspx> or call 1-855-642-8572

VACANCIES ON BOARDS & COMMITTEES

Volunteer to serve on City Council Advisory Groups. There are currently vacancies on: Arts Advisory Board, Greenbelt Advisory Committee on Environmental Sustainability, Park and Recreation Advisory Board, Senior Citizens Advisory Committee and Youth Advisory Committee

For information call 301-474-8000.

Have you been to the Greenbelt Aquatic and Fitness Center lately?



Come check us out, we have new fitness equipment to help you stay fit and healthy. Some of the new equipment includes; Cybex Treadmills, PRECOR Elliptical Trainers, Octane Lateral X Elliptical Trainers and Concept 2 Rowing Machines. We have the same low membership prices as last year. Check us out and get in shape!

Like the City of Greenbelt on Facebook
www.facebook.com/cityofgreenbelt



POTOMAC WATERSHED CLEANUP VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Come and join members of the Greenbelt Advisory Committee on Environmental Sustainability (Green ACES); Cub Scout Pack 202, and Cadet Troupe 2799 to remove litter and other debris from two sites in Greenbelt.

April 5th – 9:00 am to 12:00 noon:
SPRINGHILL LAKE STREAM (Green ACES): Meet at the SHL Recreation Center. At this site you can also help with the Three Sisters Garden Project. For details call Brian Gibbons at 301-614-0586 or email at btpg2252@yahoo.com

April 12th – 9:00 am to 12:00 noon:
BUDDY ATTICK PARK (Cub Scouts): Meet at the picnic tables at the park. For details email Cristal Jones at jump-er692010@yahoo.com

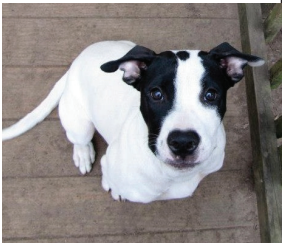
* Bring your work gloves. Wear Comfortable Clothing and Boots – or old shoes. * Attention Students – Community Service Hours will be given. Bring your forms!!

This event is organized by the Alice Ferguson Foundation:
http://www.fergusonfoundation.org/trash_initiative/trash_cleanup.shtml

GREENBELT ANIMAL SHELTER



Herman Sherman was found running at large. He was very thin and had some sores on his feet and stomach. No one has come forward for him, so he is now looking for his forever home.



Stinker is a sweet, lively girl, just over a year old. Through no fault of her own she has grown up mostly in the shelter. She loves to go on walks or runs with volunteers, give kisses, or just bask in the sun. She knows her basic commands "sit" and "lie down" and is starting to walk very well on leash. Stinker is energetic and would make a great running partner. We fully expect she will calm down once out of the shelter environment since she tends to calm down quickly when taken out on walks. Please come visit Stinker- she has been in the shelter for quite some time and is still waiting patiently for her forever home. Stinker just wants to shower someone with the love she has to give.

The Animal Shelter really needs help with fostering dogs and cats. Please come in and talk with Lauren or Susie, the Animal Control Officers at the Shelter about any questions you might have. Fostering is a wonderful way to help an animal while they find their forever home!

Come out and visit all of our available pets! 550-A Crescent Road (behind Police Station) 301-474-6124
Open Wednesdays 4-7pm and Saturdays 9am-12pm

STRUCTURE continued from page 1

nature. How various services are organized is to a great extent based upon nationally established uniform accounting guidelines in reporting their finances that Maryland law requires its local jurisdictions to follow. Although required to report revenues and expenses in a standard manner, local governments are not required to be structured in any standard way. In small governments, where not enough employees and equipment are available to sustain duplicative operations, it becomes particularly difficult to organize operations as a large governmental body might do.

For Greenbelt, a number of services have been difficult to place neatly within an organizational chart, one pyramidal in shape with an appointed city manager on top as the chief administrative officer responsible for management and direction of all city operations. Above the city manager in an organization chart is the elected council, assigned by the city charter with the responsibilities of establishing policies for city operations, approving the annual city budget, levying taxes to finance operations and appointing and supervising the manager.

Animal Control

Animal control is one service that has been difficult to place neatly. Over time it has been shifted among city departments in order to better meet the demands and expectations of city residents. While the standardized chart of accounts classifies animal control as a public safety function, it originally was assigned to the Greenbelt Public Works Department. Animal pens for holding stray animals were at the Public Works compound, with a part-time employee responsible for patrolling streets to pick up dogs and cats roaming at large. When this part-time employee was not at work other employees handled the unwelcome tasks of cleaning pens and handling urgent animal complaints. Enforcement actions, such as for cruelty to animals or dealing with vicious animals had to be undertaken by police officers.

As the city grew and enforcement matters became of greater concern, animal control became a responsibility of the police department, even though the animal pens themselves remained at Public Works. But this arrangement did not work well either. Police officers have no desire to capture or care for stray pets and the position of animal warden remained part-time.

More recently in a unique arrangement, animal control was placed within the Department of Planning and Community Development, seen as another aspect of code enforcement. Since then animal control services have expanded greatly. Now dedicated employees and volunteers provide around-the-clock care and find homes for unwanted pets instead of euthanizing them. A heated and air-conditioned animal shelter was also constructed in a separate building near the police station.

In its report, however, Matrix proposes still another shuffle for animal control. It recommends combining this service with the Recreation and Parks Department, thus forming a new Department

of Community Services. This department would also include code enforcement and parking enforcement (now functions of the Department of Planning and Community Development).

Reaction

Councilmember Leta Mach said she did not believe that community services, such as animal control, should be under recreation. Brady responded that animal control is an odd function. In their work for other governments, they have seen it placed within many different departments. In one municipality, for example, the city clerk has been responsible for administering this service.

Councilmember Judith Davis wondered why animal control and code enforcement had not been assigned to be with police. Brady responded that it certainly could be there.

Jordan suggested that, with a community services department, it would be possible to have central locations to provide all customer services. It would not be necessary to go to one place for a dog license, another to sign up for a recreation program and yet another for a building permit.

Konrad Herling noted that at a recent National Municipal League conference, he and other councilmembers had been able to see a centralized desk operation in Bellevue, Wash. But Davis reminded them that much customer service can now be done online.

Special Employees

In small organizations, special arrangements are sometimes made between departments in order best to utilize the services of individual employees. In Greenbelt a mechanic who specializes in maintaining police cruisers, but who works in the Public Works facility, is under the supervision of the police. Another Public Works employee with engineering skills who transferred out of the Department of Community Development, continues to provide engineering work for his former department. Some park maintenance employees of the Public Works Department responsible for maintaining athletic fields and other facilities used for recreational programs receive direction from recreation staff. In fact, there is continuing discussion as to whether all parks maintenance work should be done as a part of a Park and Recreation Department instead of under the supervision of the Public Works Department.

In small cities such as Greenbelt, those arguing for public works note the similarity of work performed in parks and elsewhere, such as mowing along streets, at buildings and in parks. Specialized equipment, such as backhoes, need not thus be duplicated if parks is combined with public works. Those arguing for combining parks with recreation note, however the need for coordinating maintenance with programmed activities in parks and that parks are often a neglected stepchild to other public works activities.

In dealing with these issues, Matrix has recommended that the police mechanic be a member of the Public Works Department, that engineering work be a function of the Department of Planning and that all park main-

tenance be performed by Public Works.

Councilmember Rodney Roberts said he felt a need to resolve some of the issues that had at an earlier time led to the separation of the mechanic in the police department from the Public Works Department.

Fee Charges

Brady told council it was important to have cost-recovery studies done for all fee programs. That doesn't mean that all programs should have full cost recovery, he said, but that there was a need to have a policy on what to recover.

Davis said that recreation staff does consider cost recovery in setting program fees as well as in comparing fees charged, particularly for the swimming pool, with fees charged by other jurisdictions. She added, however, that council often changes staff recommendations on fees.

Putens said he was reluctant to charge residents high fees when they are already paying through their taxes for the facilities.

Stressed Staff

A number of comments by councilmembers expressed concern that demands for service, combined with declining revenue in recent years, had resulted in staff being placed under stress and that needed work had not been accomplished timely. Brady agreed, noting a number of recommendations to alleviate the situation, particularly by providing more persons in information technology and human resources. He also recommended giving added responsibilities to the assistant manager and, down the road, adding a second assistant.

Another concern to councilmembers was the potential for many senior employees to take retirement. Councilmember Edward Putens advocated the need to have backup for personnel who might soon retire. Jordan agreed; he said a future worksession should be devoted to this problem.

Next Step

Brady told council the next step should be to get responses from the city manager and department heads. With presentation of the budget due shortly, McLaughlin told council there would be a number of recommendations in the budget relating to the study but no new positions proposed, including those proposed by the consultant. McLaughlin suggested that budget review worksessions with department heads would be a good time to hear their thoughts on the organizational study. He also said he would pursue filling some vacant authorized positions that the council had requested not be filled until the organizational study was complete, since the study supports adding those positions.

Jordan said McLaughlin had already submitted his recommendations in a report he had prepared for the meeting. McLaughlin said that was not the case, that the report he had submitted was merely a summary of consultant recommendations for council to use as a working tool in monitoring actions to be taken and did not represent his thinking.

Jordan, however, insisted that the report constituted McLaugh-

lin's recommendations and that the content differed from what the consultant had recommended. Putens and Mach, however disagreed. They had reviewed McLaughlin's summary, they said, and found it to accurately reflect the consultant's recommendations.

Davis said she had perused the report to determine what recommendations could be easily done, but found it was not that easy, because more money and added staff would be required for implementing the recommendations.

Jordan felt it was important to pursue the recommendations expeditiously. He proposed a special Tuesday night worksession on April 1 to meet with McLaughlin to hear his comments on the consultant's report. Other councilmembers concurred.

Roosevelt Center

Also set was an April 16 worksession with Roosevelt Center merchants to discuss the impact of temporarily closing the movie theater for renovations and to consider permitting food vendor trucks to operate during center special events.

James Giese is a former Greenbelt City Manager.

BUDGET continued from page 1

new playground at Belle Point, and to expand the public accessibility of local crime information. The manager closed his budget presentation with some hope for the future if the gods are favorable, saying:

- Greenbelt property reassessment by the State will occur in 2015 and should favorably impact Fiscal Year 2017
- The South Core residential development could add \$60 million in value by FY-17
- Greenbelt is successful in attracting the FBI to Greenbelt West

There was little council reaction to the manager's presentation. Mayor Emmett Jordan noted the difficulty with flat revenues. He was pleased that the Organizational Assessment had been factored into the proposed budget and expressed the view that the budget situation will require more effort and transparency and that council has a lot of work ahead of it.

McLaughlin said the availability of the printed budget document had been hindered by the inclement weather and that it should be available later in the week. He wondered if council really needed the printed book. The nearly uniform response was, "I prefer the book."

Members felt that council review of the budget at upcoming worksessions often requires them to refer to various parts of the budget, which would be difficult to do with electronic media.

At any rate, the proposed FY-15 budget is available on the city web site and on disk. Council review of the proposed budget begins at a Wednesday, March 26 worksession and continues through May. Two Public Hearings on the proposed budget (April 28 and May 27) will be held. Budget adoption usually occurs at the first regular council meeting in June.

PLAISANT continued from page 1

liberated I felt living in a small unit," she said. "It's a tiny carbon footprint and is extremely comfortable. My financial anxieties about retirement have evaporated, and you can clean up everything in 30 minutes – with a partner."

Creative Collaboration

This stellar scientist traveled an interesting path to Greenbelt and the HCI Lab. In her education in France and transatlantic career, Plaisant has adhered to a personal principle that has paid off in career satisfaction.

"I always chose the direction that offered more options, that opened the most doors," she said. In high school, she was good at science and math but said she had "had no clue" about a career. She loved the outdoors and considered architecture and surveying "because the work was outside and had math involved."

In Lille and Paris as a university student, she studied engineering – only one percent were women – and graduated early. She pursued a PhD in industrial engineering. Her thesis? Designing a voice recognition system to allow quadriplegic users to turn pages on mechanical book readers, turn lights off and on and do other tasks.

Her PhD in hand, she worked for a few years in a French research center, where she met the American who would become her husband and moved with him to the United States.

"I never thought I'd stay in the U.S. for more than a few years. I was just looking for a job," she said, laughing, since it's been nearly 30 years. But the opportunity to work with Shneiderman at the HCI Lab has kept her here and fully engaged.

Creative collaboration is the key to good designing of new ways for people to interact with technologies. "HCI draws from computer science, information science, psychology and others, depending on the project, like physicians or sociologists," she said. "Working with doctoral students, we begin by building small, then discuss the design and run evaluations with users." The goal is to build an "inspirational prototype" – which will act as a catalyst and inspire new ways to use technology.

After meeting Catherine Plaisant, I think: Forget the prototype. She's pure inspiration.

Smith Center Hosts Seagirl – Twice

The Clarice Smith Performing Arts Center presents a free program, "Seagirl," on Saturday and Sunday, March 29 and 30 at 3 p.m. How does one cope when everything one has learned begins falling apart? Sam Mauceri's original work "Seagirl" utilizes theatre, dance and movement to explore a young woman's attempts at unpacking her own prejudices in a world that wishes she wouldn't. Feminist punk music and a longing for radical ideas invade a culture of conventionality in this partnership between the School of Theatre, Dance, and Performance Studies and The Weekday Players, which will be held at the Cafritz Foundation Theatre.

Transportation Officials Meet Here with Council

by James Giese

The Greenbelt City Council held one of its bi-annual transit worksessions with representatives of the Washington-Metropolitan Area Transit Administration (WMATA), Prince George’s County Department of Public Works and Transportation (DPW&T), operators of The Bus, and the Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) on Wednesday, March 19. The meeting time had been moved up to 7:30 and limited to one hour in order to accommodate a teleconference worksession on an organizational study that was postponed from Monday by inclement weather. The meeting’s purpose was to get updates on transit operations in the city and to consider proposed improvements. Matt Johnson, representing Transit Riders United of Greenbelt (TRU-G), also attended.

Lou Farber of DPW&T The Bus told council that since he last met with them in July, there had been major changes in the organization of his department and that longtime acting director Darrell Mobley had now been confirmed as department director. Farber felt that, in the long term, there would be significant transit improvements.

Tomika Monterville, now chief of the Planning Section in the Division of Transit of DPW&T, also attended the meeting. She said she would be working closely with WMATA and expected to see both short-term and long-term transit improvements. The county has never had a clear plan for transit services before, she told council.

15X Change

Farber announced one route change sought by the city and TRU-G. As of March 10, route 15X of The Bus will stop at Greenway Center. This express bus runs from the Greenbelt to the New Carrollton METRO stations. Farber credited the change to Greenbelt activist Bill Orleans. He told council that Orleans had come to his office and suggested a change in the route shortening the time it took to run between the two stations, thereby enabling the extra stop. Farber thought it was a good idea and quickly put it into effect.

Councilmember Judith Davis told Farber he should remember that a lot of people in Greenbelt were also pushing for this change. Mayor Emmett Jordan turned to Orleans, who attended the meeting, thanking him for his efforts.

Sean Egan, director of the Washington Area Transit Office, MDOT, reported that the state provides financial assistance for The Bus but more for Ride On

in Montgomery County. Most state funding however, goes to METRO, where \$85 million is allocated for costs in Prince George’s and \$60 million for costs in Montgomery County. This amounts to about two-thirds of the cost of rail service in the two jurisdictions.

City Planner Terri Hruby told council that transit ridership was fairly flat and that on-time service was slightly down. James Hamre of WMATA said on-time performance was at 92 percent. Johnson noted the importance of being on time to riders who must make transfers from one bus to another.

Hamre said drivers of buses ahead of schedule will hold over at route stops to keep on time. This can be irritating to riders, however.

Snow Plan

In response to Johnson’s concern about reduced service during snow events, Hamre noted that for the first time METRO had used a structured plan for snow emergencies. There are now three levels of service for snow: light, for which full service will be maintained; moderate, for which partial service will be operated that avoids hills and narrow streets; and heavy, where service is temporarily halted. For the St. Patrick’s Day snowfall, service was canceled in the morning, was partial in the afternoon and then full by night.

Alternate schedules and maps for each snow event were posted at stops. “We did not necessarily get it right,” Hamre said. He added that he was looking for feedback from riders.

In planning for the future, Hamre said 550 added buses would be needed over the next decade for the most ambitious plan. A scaled-back plan would require 340 buses. To maintain the basic plan, two additional buses are needed.

Davis asked Hamre if METRO was planning bus route changes to accommodate the new Purple Line. He responded that a study had been done in 2007 and that while some revisions would be needed, he expected no major changes to take place. Johnson listed for the transit officials and council some of the other TRU-G concerns:

- The Bus drops riders off 850 feet from the METRO station entrance, should be closer;
- If new FBI headquarters is located at Greenbelt, transit riders should be first considered in any changes to METRO service;
- There is a difficulty in buses meeting at the same time at Greenway after leaving Greenbelt METRO station because of differing routes.

Climate Action Dirty Energy Show

Greenbelt Climate Action Network (GCAN) will feature the Dirty Energy Road Show at its meeting Wednesday, April 2, starting at 7 p.m. in Room 114 of the Greenbelt Community Center. Presenter Eric Blevins, an environmental activist from Tennessee, will outline ways energy pollutes the planet, along with ways to resist them.

The Dirty Energy Road Show examines the parallels of coal and nuclear power issues and connects them to other forms of dirty energy, including fracking of natural gas. It also examines mining processes, how power plants work, waste issues, impacts on the health of humans and ecosystems and planetary climate change. Blevins’ slide show also illustrates how communities and grassroots organizations like Mountain Justice and RAMPS are fighting back against mountaintop removal, coal slurry impoundments, waste dumps and other polluting facilities. Free information as well as books, posters and DVDs will be available for a small donation.

Blevins, who has been traveling across America since 2006, has spoken on hundreds of college campuses about mountaintop removal and nuclear power issues. His home is close to the Watts Bar nuclear power plant in Tennessee.

He has worked with Students for Environmental Action to promote college purchases of green power and is a founding member of the Tennessee Alumni and Students for Sustainable Campuses. The past eight years he has been working with Mountain Justice against mountaintop removal coal mining. He sat on a panel at the Appalachian Studies Association Conference on this issue as well. His many direct actions to resist the coal industry include a nine-day tree sit-in January 2010, undertaken to stop blasting on a mountaintop removal site near the Brushy Fork coal sludge impoundment in West Virginia.

For more information about the event, contact Lore Rosenthal of GCAN, lore@simplicity-matters.org, 301-345-2234.

Arboretum Offers Cherry Tree Tour

From now until April 13, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Fridays through Mondays only, the U.S. National Arboretum invites the public to tour “Beyond the Tidal Basin: Introducing Other Great Flowering Cherries.” Drive, bike or walk this free, self-guided tour to discover the arboretum’s collection of flowering cherries of various shapes, sizes, flower colors and bloom times, including trees that have been created by National Arboretum scientists. Pick up a brochure in the Administration Building or download one at www.usna.usda.gov.

Council Enters Modern Age With a Video Conference

by James Giese

The Greenbelt City Council took another step into the modern age of communications at its Wednesday, March 19 worksession by conducting a video conference with Richard Brady, president of Matrix Consulting Group. The video conference concerned an organizational assessment study the consultants had performed (see separate story). Brady, in his office in Mountain View, Cal. (on San Francisco Bay), was projected on a screen in the City Council Chambers.

The meeting originally planned for Monday night, had been postponed because of Monday’s snowfall, requiring Greenbelt CARES to make other facility arrangements for its normal Wednesday night counseling session.

From the city’s point of view, the video conference worked well. The only glitch occurred when Brady, reaching for something on his desk, accidentally moved his laptop camera to provide a close-up view of his very nice tie. From Brady’s end, however, the conference was only partially successful; he could fully hear council but he could not see them.

From the perspective of those in the audience observing the meeting, the arrangement left much to be desired. Councilmembers were crowded at a

smaller table with their backs to the audience, as was Greenbelt City Manager Michael McLaughlin. Lights had been turned off over the council table so the video screen could be better seen. For the earlier worksession on transit, also held that night, but not a teleconference, transit officials had sat under the projection screen, facing council and the audience.

Although councilmembers partially obstructed the view, that was still better than at normal meetings where guests sit with their backs to the audience so councilmembers can face the audience. City Clerk Cindy Murray sat on the podium at the formal council table, as did Planner Teri Hruby for the transit worksession.

Also on the podium were two cameras to telecast the meeting live to anyone watching on the city’s cable channel. One camera was aimed at the projection screen to show Brady (a direct feed not being used); the other focused on council. City Communications Specialist Beverly Palau said that she felt the problem at Brady’s end in viewing council was due to an incorrect telecommunications hookup that could have been corrected if the call had been replaced.

All telecast city meetings are accessible for later video streaming on the city website, greenbeltmd.gov.

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Journalism Students Meet at News Review Seminar

by Tisha Claudia Lim

At the beginning of each new academic semester, the News Review welcomes journalism students from the University of Maryland, College Park to attend the student orientation day with the purpose of introducing them to the staff members and city council members as well as briefing them on the writing rules and style that the News Review uses.

Journalism students who enrolled in journalism, an intensive course that requires each student to produce 10 clips by the end of the semester, can meet those goals by writing for a community newspaper. Each article for the News Review will qualify as a clip. Hence, students will serve as writers throughout the semester.

The News Review successfully kicked off its spring student orientation on Saturday, February 22. Unlike the previous semester in which the orientation consisted of only Maryland students, this semester’s orientation included three Eleanor Roosevelt High School seniors, a sophomore at DuVal High School and a self-published author. All were present because they share the same passion for writing as well as the same goal, which is to contribute articles for the News Review.

Attendees gathered at the newsroom at 9 a.m., chatted among themselves and were introduced to staff members and then to Greenbelt Mayor Emmett Jordan and City Councilmember Judith Davis. It is important for students to build relationships with councilmembers because they may need to interview them for future articles.

Mayor Jordan said that council members are generally easy to get in touch with for interviews. “Council members are very accessible. You can call me up on the phone or send me an email,” he said. But he also cautioned that at times it will be hard for him to get back to students due to his busy schedule.

“So the best way is to send me an email telling me that you’re trying to reach me and what your story is about and the questions you would like to ask me...I will let you know a time that you can call,” he said.

After the formal introduction, News Review Assistant Editor Aloria Bell Ross introduced students to the News Review’s



Journalism students pose for a group shot. Pictured from left to right are: Derek Coleman, a prospective writer; Chiamaka Ogwuegbu, Eleanor Roosevelt; Aloria Bell Ross, Greenbelt News Review; Dayo Adebajo, Eleanor Roosevelt High School; Jaclyn Turner, University of Maryland; Lamar Johnson, Eleanor Roosevelt High School; Daisy-Nelly Nji, University of Maryland; and Taylor Sanders, DuVal High School.

editorial staff and the board of directors. Students also learned some of the history of the city and the News Review.

Ross also reminded the students that the goal of the newspaper is to “provide a voice for the Greenbelt community.”

President Eileen Farnham emphasized to students the importance of adhering to the style and deadline set by the News Review. As an example, she said, “In the News Review, serial commas are not allowed.”

Mary Lou Williamson, editor of the News Review, talked passionately about the libel court case involving the News Review. In 1970, the U.S. Supreme Court, in an unanimous decision, reversed the libel judgment issued against the News Review brought by a local developer, Charles Bresler, who accused the paper of libeling him by publishing an article written by reporter Dorothy Sucher about a city council meeting at which a citizen described a Bresler proposal as

“blackmail.” The decision was a clear victory for Freedom of the Press, according to Williamson.

In 2013, the Dorothy Sucher Memorial Award was inaugurated, providing an internship with \$300 stipend awarded to a chosen journalism student each semester. The internship is funded by the late Dorothy Sucher’s husband Joe Sucher.

After the presentation, students were encouraged to sign up for stories in which they were interested. Among the stories to be covered were city council worksessions, Greenbelt Homes meetings and African History and Culture Lecture Series.

Students will also cover a variety of other events this semester, including the monthly Artful Afternoons, Annual Egg Hunt and Earth Day and Arbor Day celebrations.

Eleanor Roosevelt High School senior Dayo Adebajo said she would like to get involved with the News Review

because she “really likes writing” and is part of the Greenbelt community. A similar sentiment was expressed by Chiamaka Ogwuegbu, also a senior at Eleanor Roosevelt High School, who has been accepted to Stanford University and intends to pursue a degree in communications.

“I thought I should just try writing [for the News Review] since I am interested in journalism. I called two weeks ago and [Ross] invited me,” she said.

Before concluding the orientation, Ross gave students a walking tour around Greenbelt during which they were shown a variety of locations which might be covered in future stories.

Student orientations by the News Review are funded with a grant awarded by the Greenbelt Community Foundation.

Tisha Claudia Lim is a journalism student at the University of Maryland and the News Review intern.

Kids Dance Workshop Offered

The College Park Arts Exchange will be the site of a free kids dance workshop on Saturday, March 29 from 4 to 5 p.m. Connect the Dots Dance presents a fun, free workshop for ages 8 and under. Come and do some fun warmups and ballet moves – tutus provided. This workshop will take place at the Old Parish House, 4711 Knox Road, College Park.

Riversdale Presents Free Concert

The Riversdale Chamber Music Society presents a free concert on Sunday, March 30 at 2:30 p.m.. Come to the Riversdale Chamber Music Concert featuring the Riversdale Woodwind Trio. Enjoy the sounds of Ibert, Mozart, Joplin and more. The concert will take place at the Riversdale House Museum, 4811 Riverdale Road, Riverdale Park.

Watkins Center Holds Kids Animal Show

The Prince George’s County Department of Parks and Recreation will hold a live animal show on Saturday, March 29, from 10 to 11 a.m. at the Watkins Nature Center in Upper Marlboro. Come to the show and meet some of the center’s animals up close. Then learn about their habits and habitats. Reservations are required, call 301-218-6702. There is a small fee.

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THINK WARM THOUGHTS

Artful Afternoon Features Basket Weaving

The Greenbelt Recreation Department invites art fans of all ages to get crafty at the April 6 Artful Afternoon at the Greenbelt Community Center. Artist in Residence Karen Arrington will lead a free workshop, 1 to 3 p.m., in which guests can weave an elegant small basket out of

coiled papers. No registration is required. Please bring newspaper if possible. The Center is located at 15 Crescent Road in Greenbelt, Maryland. For information, call 301-397-2208.

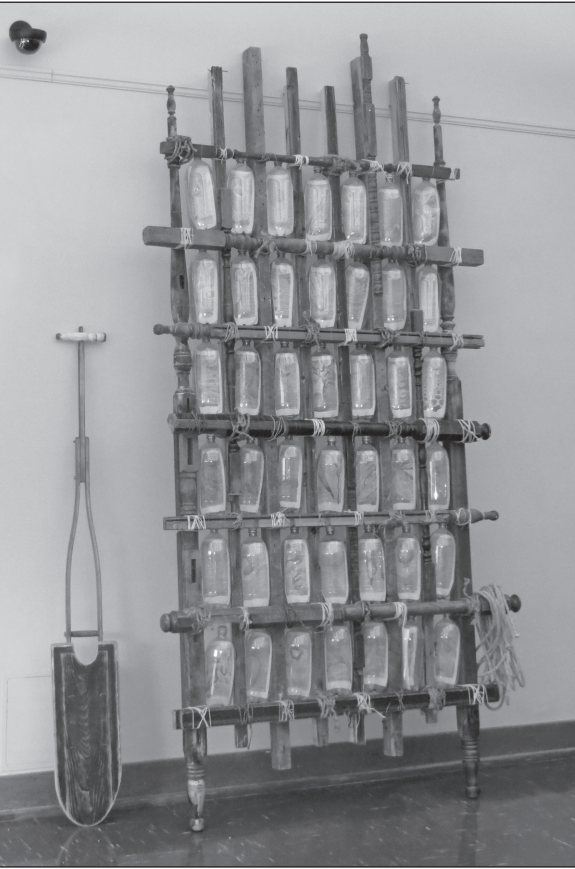
The Greenbelt Community Center's Artists-in-residence will host a studio open house and sale from 1 to 4 p.m. on the third floor. Nine accomplished artists hold studios at the Center, working in a diverse array of media including painting, printmaking, fiber arts, cut paper illustration, pottery and ceramic art tile. Artists interested in joining the program are invited to apply by May 6 for residencies beginning July 1. Information is available on line at www.greenbeltmd.gov/arts.

Artful Afternoon guests can see an exhibit of scul-

tures and collages by M. Jordan Tierney in the art gallery (room 112). Visitors to Tierney's "Inter-tidal Souls" exhibit will discover a mermaid, an enormous turtle shell re-imagined as a rowboat, and other nautical-themed works speaking broadly to the many journeys we make in life. The exhibit is open to the public during regular building hours when the room is not reserved for a special use. The show will continue through April 11. Visitors can also see the Greenbelt Museum's current exhibit at the Community Center: "Greenbelt: The First 75 Years." In celebration of Greenbelt's 75th anniversary, the exhibit explores the city's history through an interactive timeline. Admission is free to both of these exhibits and all ages are welcome.

For more local history, tour the Greenbelt Museum's historic house at 10-B Crescent Road, across the street from the Community Center. Tours are available between 1 and 5 p.m. for \$3 (or free with Museum membership). Gifts with vintage flair and local interest are available at the Museum gift shop, adjacent to the house.

For more information about City of Greenbelt art programs, follow Greenbelt Recreation ARTS on Facebook. These programs are sponsored in part by the Maryland State Arts Council.



Sculpture by M. Jordan Tierney

Seminar Examines Teen Violence

The Publick Playhouse in Cheverly will be the site of a free seminar, Understanding Teen Violence, on Monday, March 31 from 7 to 8:30 p.m., presented by Phil Chalmers, noted author of "Inside the Mind of a Teen Killer," and an expert on teen violence and bullying.

Chalmers will present his highly-acclaimed 'Why Teens Kill?' seminar. The seminar is ideal for adults who work with teens including recreation staff, law enforcement, school administrators, counselors and parents.

Senior Softballers Seek New Teammates

The Greenbelters seeks new players with a competitive edge. Men must be 60 or older, women at least 55. Spring training begins in March. For details, call Manager George Harrison at 301-538-3636 or Deputy Manager Jasper Pendergrass at 202-321-0909.

Two Bands Join At Smith Center

A free joint performance by the University Band and the Community Band will be held on Wednesday, April 2 at 8 p.m. in the Dekelboun Concert Hall of the Clarice Smith Performing Arts Center. The University Band and Community Band share an evening of traditional and contemporary wind band music. Conducted by Director of Bands Emeritus Professor John Wakefield and UMD Assistant Director of Bands Eli R. Osterloh, this concert will be an exciting evening for the whole family. Children and adults who are thinking of starting to play an instrument are sure to be inspired.

Greenbriar Hosts Clothing Drive

This month at Greenbriar a month-long spring clothing drive is being held. Bring clean donations to the Greenbriar Management Office.



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Cooper C.V. Sharp Cheese \$6 ⁹⁹ lb.		Fresh Store Baked Apple or French Apple Pie 8" \$3 ⁹⁹		Casa Fiesta Diced Green Chilies 4 oz. 99¢		Dr. Care Assorted Bandages & Band Aids 1-14 pack 99¢		Gabbiano Wines 750 ML \$6 ⁹⁹	

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Police Blotter

Based on information released by the Greenbelt Police Department, <http://www.greenbeltnmd.gov/police/index.htm>, link in left frame to "Weekly Report" or http://www.greenbeltnmd.gov/police/weekly_report.pdf. Dates and times are those when police were first contacted about incidents.

Trespass arrest
March 13, 6:50 p.m., 7500 Greenbelt Road. A 26-year-old Greenbelt resident was arrested and charged with trespassing at Subway after having previously been banned from the shopping center. He was released on citation pending trial.

March 18, 5:25 p.m., 121 Centerway. A 26-year-old Greenbelt resident was arrested at the Co-op Supermarket, and charged with trespassing and theft after he was stopped for shoplifting in the store. He had previously been banned from the store, and was transported to the Department of Corrections for a hearing before the district court commissioner.

Burglary
March 13, 2:06 a.m., 7300 Hanover Parkway. Someone attempted to enter a commercial building by prying on the front door. A possible suspect, white male with black hair, was seen leaving the area at a high rate of

speed in a vehicle described only as black.

March 19, 10 p.m., 52 Crescent Road. An unknown person broke into a storage room and took a key cutting machine.

Theft
March 14, 12 p.m., 6100 Greenbelt Road. An unknown person took a cell phone from a counter inside Target Department Store.

Vandalism
March 15, 2 a.m., 5900 Cherrywood Lane. An unknown person used a rock to break out the bedroom window of a residence. A possible suspect seen leaving the area is described as a heavy-set Latino male.

March 16, 12 a.m., Crescent Road and Gardenway. An unknown person vandalized the walls of the pedestrian underpass using spray paint.

Automotive Crime
March 13, 6100 Breezewood Drive. The rear window of a vehicle was cracked by an unknown person using unknown means.

March 14, 7500 Mandan Road. A cellphone, wallet and money were taken from an unsecured vehicle.

March 19, 7800 Hanover Parkway. The month sticker was taken from a registration plate.

Suspicious Person
March 21, 3:40 – 3:50 p.m., 8000 block Mandan Road. An unidentified suspicious person chased after a six-year-old child who was walking home from a school bus stop. The victim ran to her residence and the suspect, described as a black male with black hair and brown eyes, fled the scene. Anyone with information is asked to contact Detective Aguilar at 240-542-2137, or by email at daguilar@greenbeltnmd.gov.

Beijing Robbed Two Nights in a Row

Two break-ins occurred last week at the Beijing Restaurant, an anchor business in Roosevelt Center. In both cases, the cash box was stolen. The first robbery was reported on Friday, March 21. It occurred in the overnight hours, when a person or persons gained entry by shattering a glass door facing the parking area on Centerway. A passerby called the police early the next morning to report the shattered door.

After the door was repaired, the same thing happened again around 2:15 a.m. on Saturday, March 22. The same door was shattered, entry was gained and the cash box was stolen. A witness to the second break-in called police to report the sound of glass breaking, and saw a man running from the area and carrying something. A canine-unit officer responded, and the investigation into both incidents continues.

George Mathews, public information officer for the Greenbelt Police Department, described the dual break-ins as "very unusual."

"I don't recall ever having back-to-back break-ins at the same business," he said.

For Manager David Chen, it's been a nerve wracking experience. "It's terrible," he said, adding that in 20 years of working at the restaurant, they had had no problems until three months ago, when a break-in occurred in December.

Mathews noted the spate of break-ins at Roosevelt Center over the last few months. Two businesses targeted were the Sunoco gas station and Meli Melo eatery. Cameras are placed around Roosevelt Center, and police patrols in the area are "being adjusted," Mathews said, which occurs whenever crime flares in an area of the city.

Greenbelt Middle School Has Renovation Meeting

by David Lange

Peggy Higgins, an elected Board of Education member, held a public hearing on March 12 at the (new) Greenbelt Middle School (GMS). In addition to presentations and audience participation about academics and budgets, status information was provided about the (old) GMS building. Sarah Woodhead, director of the Capital Improvement Program for the county school system, described the renovations being done to the old school (see the News Review article of March 13). She also mentioned that the 1969 administrative wing would be torn down because of poor mortar conditions and the resulting open space may be used for a playground.

On January 10, 2013, the Board of Education approved three uses for the old GMS building – the French Immersion School, a large area for swing space for emergency relocation

of northern county schools and rental of five rooms to the City of Greenbelt. Woodhead said the swing space has been eliminated and the rooms are still available to the city.

A new name for the old building has not been selected yet, so there will continue to be two nearby signs stating Greenbelt Middle School.

Nat'l Gallery Offers Lunch Time Concert

The National Gallery of Art's free concert on Wednesday, April 2 at 12:10 p.m. will feature Barbara Hollinshead, mezzo-soprano, Gwendolyn Toth, harpsichordist and Daniel Swenberg, theorist. The concert will be held in the West Building, West Garden Court, and will feature music by Elisabeth Söpie von Mecklenburg.

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The Greenbelt Community Foundation makes grants ranging from \$500 to \$5000 to local non-profits and co-operatives for new projects in the arts, education, environmental preservation, and community enhancement which "celebrate, respect, and build upon the legacy and best ideals of Greenbelt."

Application materials as well as tips for a successful application can be found at our website: www.greenbeltfoundation.net. Completed forms should be sent to the Greenbelt Community Foundation at P.O. Box 234, Greenbelt MD 20768.

Deadline for submission is April 15, 2014

The Department is offering a reward of up to \$1,000 for information leading to the arrest and conviction of a suspect in any of the unsolved crimes reported in the blotter.

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Lady Raiders Rebound as State Champions

Genealogical Society Meets

by Patrick Gleason

The Eleanor Roosevelt Lady Raiders wanted to leave no doubt. The team was adamant that last year's state semifinal loss did not reflect their capabilities. And after steamrolling through a lineup of talented squads in the 2014 regional and state playoffs, they have done just that – with a state championship trophy to prove it.

The Lady Raiders cemented their run as one of the most dominant teams in recent state history with a never-in-doubt 64-30 victory against North Point High School Saturday, March 15. Roosevelt jumped out to an 18-point halftime lead and continued to suffocate the Eagles with a swarming defense until the final buzzer. Their defense frustrated North Point into a 9-of-53 field goal shooting record on the afternoon. Freshman Octavia Wilson was the game's high scorer with 20 points, complemented by the usual suspects: junior Tolu Omokore (15 points and 20 rebounds) and sophomore Kaila Charles (16 points and 10 rebounds).

It was a flawless playoff run. The Raiders finished their perfect 26-0 season with an average postseason victory margin of 34.2 (trumped only by their season average of 38.9 points). Their opponents were no slouches either. In the regional playoffs, the Raiders defeated squads from Bowie and Flowers that were ranked by The Washington Post for the majority of the season; in the state playoffs they overwhelmed a 23-3 Paint Branch High team before avenging last year's loss to a North Point team that had won all but one of its 24 victories by a double-digit margin.

After celebrating this year's victory, the Raiders' eyes will look to next season—when their entire squad returns for a state title defense.

Patrick Gleason is an education major at the University of Maryland, interning as an English teacher at Eleanor Roosevelt High School.



PHOTOS BY CHERYL GLEASON

The Lady Raiders, from left to right are Taylor McCottry, Jasmine Jack, Daijah Davis, Jaala Henry (behind), Yemisi Odunlami, Kaila Charles, Tracy Okoroh, Tolu Omokore and Jasmine Brunson. The bottom row Raiders are Octavia Wilson, Allannah Baiyina and Alia Parker.



At right, the Lady Raiders celebrate their 64 to 30 victory against North Point High School on March 15.

The Prince George's County Genealogical Society (PGCGS) will meet Wednesday, April 2, at 7 p.m. in the New Carrollton Municipal Building, 6016 Princess Garden Parkway. After a brief business meeting, Vernon Skinner will present "Research Using Maryland Land Records."

All are welcome to attend this free presentation. For additional information see <http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~mdpgcgs/> or call 301-262-2063. The society meets on the first Wednesday of the month from September through June, except for January.

Upcoming Meetings

May 7, 2014: Richard Phillips "Colonial Child Servants in County Court Records"

June 4, 2014: Aaron Marcovitch "Battle of Bladensburg Bicentennial."

Nat'l Gallery Holds Free Marimba Concert

The National Gallery of Art concert series continues with Naoko Takada, marimbist, performing on Sunday, March 30 at 6:30 p.m. in the West Building, West Garden Court. The program will include J.S. Bach, transcriptions of movements from keyboard suites, Paul Fowler, Michiyuki, Chin Cheng Lin, Tango for Nako, Augusto Marcellino, Chorus no. 1, Joseph Pereira, Five Pieces for Solo Marimba, and Naoko Takada, Improvisations on Sakura.

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A Review

Who Is God? GAC Explores “The Creation of the World”

by Jim Link

The Creation of the World and Other Business, now at the Greenbelt Arts Center, is Arthur Miller’s angry, lengthy, probing parody of the early chapters of the book of Genesis. Miller gives the biblical version of how this glorious globe and our primal parents came to be, along with the origin of evil, strong satirical treatment. His play is saturated with broad humor, lambent mockery and intense theological debate.

The magnificent production by Off the Quill (OTQ), with its kinetic, imaginative choreography, its simple, colorful costuming and its skillful sound and set design delighted a very enthusiastic opening night audience of 35. OTQ is a new experimental theater company which blends many different mediums and emphasizes dance, physicality, clowning, music and stage combat.

Its gaudy, energetic, bold interpretation of Miller’s words succeeds brilliantly. OTQ’s production delights the eye, opens the mind, teases the intellect.

At the core of the play lies Lucifer’s faux-friendly rivalry with God. The sleek, persuasive, intellectually agile, corrosively jealous rebel angel argues plausibly, if vainly, against God’s (il) logic in forbidding Adam and Eve to taste the Fatal Apple and in whimsically preferring Abel’s sacrifice (lamb) over Cain’s (crops). Thomas Stratton is Lucifer, a wonderfully slimy fellow indeed.

Brian Moors, who plays God, could easily have coasted through his role by simply being regal and thunderous. But Moors avoids giving us a dull, one-dimensional Creator; his is a nuanced, complicated rendering of God’s interiority and tentativeness. An occasional raised eyebrow, pregnant pauses, thoughtful tenderness suffuse his really impressive performance.

After the show I schmoozed an audience member who commented, “Tonight, I’m the mother of God.” She was not delusional - Lelia Zanner Moors is Brian’s mom.

Asked how God did that night, the mother of God said, “He’s going to have to go back to school for humility lessons.”

Joel Lorenzetti’s Adam is a big affable bear of a fellow intent on living the Edenic dream, avoiding forbidden fruit. The lovely Casey Lefflue, as Eve, is much shrewder, more curious, ergo more susceptible to the charms of Lucifer, which are primarily cerebral, but also erotic.

Tellingly, her first word is “Why?” when God orders her not to taste of the Tree of Knowledge. Lucifer coaches Eve in the fine art of being fruitful and multiplying as myriads of theologians have inferred, eating the apple - sex - the first sin.

Joe Roberts and Eben Kuhns work very harmoniously together as Cain and Abel - up to a point, of course. Their debates



“Cain is banished by God.” (Joe Roberts as Cain and Brian H. Moors as God).



“Lucifer torments Eve.” (Thomas Stratton and Casey Lefflue as Lucifer and Eve)

about shepherding vs. farming are engaging. The mark of Cain, which protects him from being murdered during his life of wandering, is a hideous rictus - an effective touch.

“Physicality” is a key word in OTQ’s credo. Literally everyone in the cast is athletic – they sing, dance, act and leap with agility.

From the get-go the audience is immersed in a swirling, tight, precise choreography of light emerging from darkness, vegetation and animals coming to be in the midst of a dazzle of colors, silks, flags, fans and music - presided over by God, the Great Fabricator.

Eve dances with God - a stately waltz. Eve dances with Adam and a passel of angels - a rollicking square dance, Eve dances with the devil - an erotic writhe! The mother of us all! Who knew?

Tamieka Chavis is Chemuel, the Angel of Mercy who desperately directs the heavenly choir, whose many Hallelujahs attempt to placate God’s neediness.

Elliott Bales, a quite spooky Azrael, the Angel of death, doubles as a tree in the Garden supporting the Serpent curled round

his neck - yes, that’s Lucifer/Stratton, a full grown man!

Clearly, Kathleen Moors (choreographer and sister of God), Katie Wanschura (director/costumes/sound design), Patrick Mullen (producer/lighting/set design), Elise Berg (costumes) and Leanne Dinverno (costumes) all deserve kudos.

“Who is God?” the last act asks rhetorically. Lucifer claims that God is incomplete without His shadow side, Lucifer himself. “I am God’s corrective symmetry,” he boasts. “You are the spirit of infinite permission,” God accuses Lucifer.

One caveat: Arthur Miller wrote this play in 1972, long after his iconic successes. Death of a Salesman, The Crucible, A View From the Bridge were years behind him and he never recaptured that lightning. TCOTW is overly long (two and a half hours), with some wince-producing, sophomoric humor.

But the OTQ’s production deserves acclaim. Attention must be paid!

TCOTW is at the GAC through April 5. Fridays and Saturdays at 8 p.m., Sundays at 2 p.m.

Is It Spring Yet?



PHOTO BY HELEN SYDAVAR

Al's bench in front of Greenbelt Library is frosted in snow from Tuesday's storm.

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Thursday, April 3, 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.,
Don Bosco Cristo Rey High School,
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Friday, April 4, 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., Beltsville
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Saturday, April 5, 10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.,
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Friday, April 11, 12:30 to 6 p.m.,
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Well, that Depends ...



Crocus flowers are tightly furled against the late season snow and cold.



A magnolia tree waits for warmer weather to open its buds.



This turtle statue may be dreaming of spring.

PHOTOS BY HELEN SYDAVAR

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City Notes

Public Works staff held a pre-construction meeting at Springhill Lake Elementary School with Planning staff, State Highway Administration staff and a contractor for the Safe Routes to School Project.

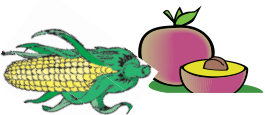
Horticulture/Parks staff met with Department of Natural Resources staff to update and re-examine beaver activity.

Facilities Maintenance crews assisted a contractor with generator repair at the police station, repaired the boiler at the Youth Center, painted the foyer, dining room and an office in the Community Center, mounted a flat screen TV in the multi-purpose room at the Aquatic & Fitness Center and replaced a solenoid valve for the hot tub at the Aquatic & Fitness Center.

Healthy Eating Talk and AIC Screening

Doctors Hospital (DCH) is providing a free Healthy Eating Lecture on April 10 from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. Along with a speaker who is a certified diabetes educator and registered dietitian, participants can receive free A1C screenings that provide an average blood glucose or blood sugar level for the past two to three months.

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2 Bedroom GHI Townhome - Backs to protected woodlands - privacy! Fresh paint and refinished oak hardwood flooring. Priced to sell at \$91,900

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Townhome near Roosevelt Center - 2 BR Townhome with new kitchen and granite counters. Refinished hardwood flooring. Want to contact us, call 301-982-0044

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Block Townhome - Attached Garage - 2 bedroom remodeled GHI home. Remodeled throughout - hardwood flooring on lower level. Very nice!

Large Corner Lot - 2 bedroom GHI townhome with shade trees, privacy hedges and spacious storage shed. Just steps away from Roosevelt Center.

Walk To Roosevelt Center - 2 BR block w/downstairs study. Remodeled kit. w/Silestone counters, s/s oven and refrigerator. Very modern; you'll love it!

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Block Townhome With Addition - Rear addition and new kitchen and office space. Full bath, new sink and ceramic tiles. Close to Roosev. Center.

2 Bedroom Townhome - Corner lot tucked away from street. New appliances. Oak hardwood flooring on both levels. Priced to sell at \$125,000

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PROPOSED LEGISLATION NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING



Notice is hereby given that the City Council of the City of Greenbelt, Maryland, will hold a public hearing on a Resolution described in this Notice of Public Hearing.

The public hearing will be held on April 7, 2014, at 8 P.M. in the Greenbelt Municipal Building, 25 Crescent Road, Greenbelt, Maryland 20770.

Summary of Resolution: A Resolution providing for the designation of certain contiguous property in the City of Greenbelt, Maryland (the “City”) currently known as the Greenbelt Station as a development district (the “Greenbelt Station Development District”) for purposes of Sections 12-201 et seq. of the Economic Development Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland, as amended (the “Tax Increment Financing Act”), and of a geographically coincident area as a special taxing district (the “Greenbelt Station Special Taxing District”) for the purposes of Sections 21-407 et seq. of the Local Government Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland, as amended (the “Special Taxing District Act”, and collectively with the Tax Increment Financing Act, the “Acts”) (collectively, the “Districts”); creating certain special funds pursuant to the Acts; pledging that the City will allocate and divide property taxes on real property within the Greenbelt Station Development District so that a certain portion of the real property tax (the “Tax Increment”) will be allocated and paid into one of the special funds, and providing for the levy, imposition and collection of special taxes or ad valorem taxes on real property within the Greenbelt Station Special Taxing District to be deposited to the other special fund in the event the Tax Increment revenues are or will be insufficient to pay debt service on any special obligation bonds that may be issued by the Mayor and City Council of the City under the Acts; levying, imposing and providing for the collection of the special tax pursuant to the Rate and Method identified in the Resolution; and generally providing for the levy, imposition, collection and application of such special tax in accordance with the Acts.

Public Infrastructure Improvements: The Resolution specifies certain public infrastructure improvements financeable with the special obligation bonds that may be issued by the City under the Acts, which public infrastructure improvements relate to the construction of and improvements to the North-South Connector Road (also known as Greenbelt Station Parkway), and related improvements and costs, as more specifically described in the Resolution.

Greenbelt Station Development District and Greenbelt Station Special Taxing District: The proposed Greenbelt Station Development District and the geographically coincident Greenbelt Station Special Taxing District are within the geographic boundaries of the City and are generally bound by WMATA/CSX/MARC rail lines to the west, a wooded area south of the WMATA Greenbelt Metro Station to the north, Indian Creek to the east, and Branchville Road to the south. The Districts are described in more detail as follows:

Being a strip or parcel of land lying in the Berwyn (21st) Election District of Prince George’s County Maryland and being part of the land conveyed by CRM Mid-Atlantic Properties, LLC, to NVR MS Cavalier Greenbelt, LLC by deed dated February 27, 2013 and recorded in Liber 34533 at Folio 419, said strip or parcel of land being all of the land shown on Plats One through Eleven, Greenbelt Station and recorded in Plat Book REP 216 as Plat Nos. 40 through 50, inclusive, and Plat of Correction, Plat Ten, Greenbelt Station as recorded in Plat Book PM 226 as Plat No. 61, all among the Land Records of Prince George’s County, Maryland, and being more particularly described as follows:

Beginning at a point at the southwesterly corner of parcel S-1 as shown on a Plat of Correction for Plat Ten, Greenbelt Station, recorded in Plat Book PM 226 as Plat No. 61; thence running with the outline thereof

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. North 23°02’57”East, 105.86 feet; | 28. South 15°37’45”West, 11.25 feet to a point at the southeasterly corner of Plat Eight, said point being at the northeasterly end of the South 15°37’45”West, 98.97’ line of Parcel I as shown on Plat Five, Greenbelt Station, recorded in Plat Book REP 216 as Plat No. 44; thence running with the outline of Plat Five |
| 2. North 06°15’46”West, 21.91 feet; | 29. South 15°37’45”West, 98.97 feet; and |
| 3. North 18°02’18”East, 27.96 feet; | 30. South 77°12’00”East, 16.14 feet to a point at the northwesterly corner of Plat Eleven, Greenbelt Station, recorded in Plat Book REP 216 as Plat No. 50; thence running with the outline thereof |
| 4. North 35°20’34”East, 20.87 feet; | 31. South 77°12’00”East, 428.57 feet; |
| 5. North 15°40’02”East, 181.77 feet; | 32. South 38°42’31”West, 1,505.08 feet; |
| 6. North 20°27’22”East, 45.09 feet; | 33. North 87°35’44”West, 40.71 feet; |
| 7. North 20°27’01”East, 147.25 feet; | 34. North 02°24’16”East, 330.00 feet; |
| 8. North 20°23’45”East, 206.69 feet; and | 35. South 75°42’24”West, 208.83 feet; |
| 9. North 15°27’03”East, 15.98 feet to a point at the northwesterly corner of Plat Ten, being the southwesterly corner of parcel S-2 as shown Plat Nine, Greenbelt Station, recorded in Plat Book REP 216 as Plat No. 48; thence running with the outline thereof | 36. South 02°24’16”Wesy, 270.00 feet; |
| 10. North 15°27’03”East, 7.63 feet to a point; | 37. North 87°35’44”West, 148.30 feet; |
| 11. North 23°01’09”West, 23.00 feet; | 38. North 40°13’21”West, 11.81 feet; and |
| 12. North 21°58’51”East, 184.82 feet; | 39. South 89°54’46”West, 85.50 feet to a point at the southeasterly corner of Plat One, Greenbelt Station, recorded in Plat Book REP 216 as Plat No. 40; thence running with the outline thereof |
| 13. North 66°58’51”East, 23.00 feet; | 40. South 89°54’46”West, 9.22 feet; |
| 14. North 23°32’06”East, 257.90 feet; | 41. South 44°54’45”West, 18.39 feet; |
| 15. North 26°16’44”East, 149.65 feet; | 42. South 89°54’46”West, 253.48 feet; and |
| 16. North 27°19’51”East, 199.43 feet; and | 43. North 00°03’21”West, 207.03 feet to a point on the South 89°56’39”West, 213.85’ line of Parcel S-1 as shown on a Plat of Correction for Plat Ten, Greenbelt Station, recorded in Plat Book PM 226 as Plat No. 61, said point lying 23.85 feet from the northeasterly end thereof; thence running with the outline of Plat Ten |
| 17. North 29°59’11”East, 57.22 feet to a point at the northwesterly corner of Plat Nine, being the southwesterly corner of Plat Eight, Greenbelt Station, recorded in Plat Book REP 216 as Plat No. 47; thence with the outline thereof | 44. South 89°56’39”West, 190.00 feet; |
| 18. North 29°59’11”East, 390.57 feet; | 45. South 18°18’39”West, 21.07 feet; |
| 19. North 35°10’17”East, 149.49 feet; | 46. South 89°56’39”West, 21.07 feet; |
| 20. North 21°13’46”East, 201.24 feet; | 47. South 18°18’39”West, 24.31 feet; and |
| 21. North 33°49’35”East, 198.95 feet; | 48. North 71°41’42”West, 160.15 feet to the point of beginning, Containing 64.20 acres of land. |
| 22. North 29°08’08”East, 3.14 feet; | |
| 23. South 32°23’10”East, 420.69 feet; | |
| 24. South 57°40’20”East, 636.39 feet; | |
| 25. South 32°19’39”West, 355.15 feet; | |
| 26. South 18°42’36”East, 51.56 feet; | |
| 27. South 03°21’42”West, 152.01 feet; and | |

The District property is also described in a “Request to Create and Establish a Special Taxing District, Levy and Impose Special Taxes on the Property in the Special Taxing District, and Issue Special Obligation Bonds” dated March 19, 2014 submitted to the City (the “Request”) and is depicted on a map prepared in connection with the Request (the “Map”).

Copies of the proposed Resolution, the Request, and the Map may be examined or obtained in the Office of the City Manager, Greenbelt Municipal Building, 25 Crescent Road, Greenbelt, Maryland 20770.

CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF GREENBELT, MARYLAND
Cindy Murray, City Clerk